

Flooding of Uttarlai Airbase In Rajasthan

†33. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLАО: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Uttarlai (Barmer), Rajasthan airbase situated on the western frontier of the country is a strategically very important airstrip;
- (b) if so, the extent of operational area of this airstrip which went under floods in Barmer;
- (c) the earlier instances when this airstrip went under floods; and
- (d) plans to overcome this calamity?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A large extent of operational area of the airstrip was flooded due to heavy rains during 18-24 August, 2006.

(c) Earlier the airfield was also flooded in August, 1990 due to heavy rainfall in the area.

(d) The Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune has been entrusted to carry out an in-depth study of the topographical and hydrological data of the airfield and recommend remedial measures to prevent flooding in future.

Steps to Prevent MiG-21 Crashes

†34. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cause of MiG-21 aircrafts missing is settling of dust in a very fine hole in the fuel pipe;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not examining this part well before time; and
- (c) the steps taken to avoid the recurrence of MiG-21 mishaps in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The cause of a few MiG-21 aircraft accidents in the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.